

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group comprised in a group of diseases consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

i) contacting a test compound with a KKK8 polypeptide, and

ii) detecting ~~detect~~ binding of said test compound to said KKK8 polypeptide.

2. (currently amended) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group comprised in a group of diseases consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

i) determining the activity of a KKK8 polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound or in the absence of said test compound, and

ii) determining the activity of said polypeptide at a different concentration of said test compound.

3. (currently amended) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group comprised in a group of diseases consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

i) determining the activity of a KKK8 polypeptide at a certain concentration

of a test compound, and

ii) determining the activity of a KLK8 polypeptide at the presence of a compound known to be a regulator of a KLK8 polypeptide.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the step of contacting is in or at the surface of a cell.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the compound is coupled to a detectable label.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the test compound displaces a ligand which is first bound to the polypeptide.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the polypeptide is attached to a solid support.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the compound is attached to a solid support.

12. (currently amended) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group ~~comprised in a group of diseases~~ consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction

disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

- i) contacting a test compound with a KLK8 polynucleotide, and
- ii) detecting ~~detect~~ binding of said test compound to said KLK8 polynucleotide.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the contacting step is in or at the surface of a cell.

15. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the contacting step is in a cell-free system.

16. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein polynucleotide is coupled to a detectable label.

17. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the test compound is coupled to a detectable label.

18. (currently amended) A method of diagnosing a disease selected from the group ~~comprised in a group of diseases~~ consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

- i) determining the amount of a KLK8 polynucleotide in a sample taken from said mammal, and
- ii) determining the amount of KLK8 polynucleotide in healthy and/or diseased mammals.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease

~~selected from the group comprised in a group of diseases~~ consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising a therapeutic agent which regulates the activity of a KLK8 polypeptide, wherein said therapeutic agent is

- i) a small molecule,
- ii) an RNA molecule,
- iii) an antisense oligonucleotide,
- iv) a polypeptide,
- v) an antibody, or
- vi) a ribozyme.

22. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease ~~selected from the group comprised in a group of diseases~~ consisting of cardiovascular disorders, urological diseases, endocrinological diseases, metabolic diseases, reproduction disorders, dermatological diseases, respiratory diseases, gastroenterological diseases and cancer disorders in a mammal comprising a KLK8 polynucleotide.

23. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease ~~selected from the group comprised in a group of diseases~~ consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases ~~diseases~~, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising a KLK8 polypeptide.

24-26. (canceled)